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PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE TRAVANCORE SRI MULAM ASSEMBLY.

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST ASSEMBLY.

FIRST SESSION.

Saturday, the 12th August 1933/28th Karkatakam 1108.

The Assembly met in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven of the clock, the President Presiding.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Measures to relieve economic depression.

76* **MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI** (*Tiruvalla III*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that the economic depression in the State is rendered more intense by the import of Ceylon copra into Travancore;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether they intend taking any immediate remedial measures in the matter; and

(*c*) if so, what the measures proposed to be taken are?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The economic depression in the State may be rendered more intense by the coming of Ceylon copra to India. Its import into Travancore by itself cannot materially affect the price of copra in Travancore or intensify the economic depression.

(*b*) & (*c*) This Government have addressed the Government of India in the matter.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): സിലോൺ കൊപ്രാ ഇറക്കുമതിചെയ്യുന്നതിന് ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ തീരുവക്രമം എങ്ങനെയാണ്?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): കണ്ടിക്കുഫ ഡ്യൂട്ടി രൂപയാണ്.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): എന്നുമുതൽക്കാണ് ഇതു നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തിയത്?

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MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): ഫൻസ്സ ജനവരി ഫ ൈ -ാംനു-മുതൽക്കാണ്.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): അതിനു മുമ്പുണ്ടായിരുന്ന തീരുവക്രമം എങ്ങനേയായിരുന്നുവെന്നു സദയം പറയാമോ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): കണ്ടിക്ക് ഫ ൈ ശ്രുപാ ഫ ം അണയായിരുന്നു.

MR. T. P VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : മുമ്പുണ്ടായിരുന്ന തീരുവക്രമത്തിനു ഭേദഗതി ചെയ്യാൻ വിശേഷാൽ വല്ലകാരണവുമുണ്ടായിരുന്നോ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : ഇതു് ഇൻഡ്യാഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ഏർപ്പാടാണ്.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : ഈപുത്തൻ തീരുവക്രമംസ്വീകരിച്ചതുകൊണ്ട് തന്നാട്ടുകൊപ്രാക്കുവിലക്കുറവുവന്നിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): സ്വല്പം കുറവുണ്ട്.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : അതു് ഈ നാട്ടിലെ കൊപ്രാ ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാക്കു നഷ്ടഹേതുകമല്ലേ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): അതുകൊണ്ടു നഷ്ടമൊന്നും വരുന്നില്ലല്ലൊ.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : വിലക്കുറവുകൊണ്ടു നഷ്ടമൊന്നും വരുന്നില്ലെന്നാണൊ മെമ്പർ പറയുന്നതു ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): സിലോൺ കൊപ്രായുടെ ഡ്യൂട്ടി കുറച്ചതുകൊണ്ടു വിശേഷാൽ നഷ്ടമൊന്നും വരുന്നില്ല.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : എങ്കിലും സ്വല്പം നഷ്ടം വരുന്നില്ലേ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): നഷ്ടം വരുന്നില്ല. കൂടുതൽ വിലകിട്ടുന്നില്ല എന്നേയുള്ളു.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): കൂടുതൽ വിലകിട്ടേണ്ട സമയത്തു കുറഞ്ഞവിലകിട്ടുന്നതു നഷ്ടമല്ലേ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിലും ഈ വിലയെ ഉള്ളു. അതുകൊണ്ടു കൂടുതൽവില കിട്ടുമെന്നു പറയുവാൻ തരമില്ല.

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MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): ഇവിടെ ഇറക്കുമതിചെയ്യുന്ന സിലോൺകൊപ്രായിൽനിന്നും എടുക്കുന്ന വെളിച്ചെണ്ണ, പിണ്ണാക്ക മുതലായവ അന്യരാജ്യങ്ങളിലേക്ക കയറുമതി ചെയ്യുകയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു തീരുവചുമത്തുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : That question does not arise.

PRESIDENT. What is your question, please?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): My question is, Sir, whether export duty is levied on cocoanut oil and punnac taken from the copra imported into Travancore from Ceylon.

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): എക്സ്പോർട്ട് ഡ്യൂട്ടി ചുമത്തുന്നില്ല.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): അപ്പോൾ അതു സിലോൺകൊപ്രാ വാങ്ങിക്കുന്ന മില്ലുകാർക്ക വിശേഷാലുള്ള ഒരു ആനുകൂല്യം (concession) അതാണോ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): അതെ.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ കൊപ്രായിൽ നിന്നും എടുക്കുന്ന വെളിച്ചെണ്ണ പിണ്ണാക്ക് ഇവ കയറുമതിചെയ്യുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ അവയ്ക്ക തീരുവചുമത്തുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : ഉണ്ട്.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): ഈ പ്രത്യേകാനുകൂല്യം സിലോൺകൊപ്രാ വാങ്ങിക്കുന്നവർക്കുമാത്രം ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു വല്ല പ്രത്യേക കാരണങ്ങളുമുണ്ടോ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : സിലോൺ കൊപ്രാ ഇവിടെ ഇറക്കുമതിചെയ്യുന്നകാലത്തു ഇറക്കുമതി തീരുവവാങ്ങിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അതിനാൽ അതിൽനിന്നും എടുക്കുന്ന സാധനങ്ങൾക്കു വീണ്ടും കയറുമതി തീരുവചുമത്തുന്നില്ല എന്നേയുള്ളു.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): ഈ ആനുകൂല്യം (concession) റദ്ദ്ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ഗവണ്മെൻറ് സദയം ശ്രമിക്കുമോ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : ഈ ആണ്ട് അവസാനംവരയേ ഈ ആനുകൂല്യം കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളു.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): ആ കാലാവധി തീർന്നശേഷം ഈ പ്രത്യേകാനുകൂല്യം ഗവണ്മെൻറു റദ്ദ്ചെയ്യാൻ ശ്രമിക്കുമോ?

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MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : റബ്ബറെയുണ്ട തിനെപ്പററി ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ആലോചിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയാണ്.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : Did not the member state in his answer just now that the oil extracted from Ceylon copra was not subject to export duty, whereas oil extracted from indigenous copra was subject to such duty ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : May I know how the Government are able to distinguish between oil extracted from indigenous copra and oil extracted from Ceylon copra ? (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : I claim notice.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : May I know how the price of Travancore copra in Travancore compares with the price, in Travancore, of Ceylon copra after payment of the import duty ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : Ceylon copra is not sold anywhere in Travancore ; it is imported by the oil mill-owners here. Ceylon copra may be cheaper.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : Still, no export duty is levied on oil extracted from Ceylon copra and export duty is levied on oil extracted from local copra ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : So, is not the Travancore producer at a disadvantage ?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : May I know whether, in fixing the tariff values of copra and cocoanut oil, some facility is not sought to be given to the local oil-mill industry ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : Am I to take it that it is the policy of Government to encourage oil-mill industry in the State ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : May I further know whether such encouragement to the mill industry is not given because they are permanent buyers of local copra ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : Therefore, is it advisable to give any concession to oil pressed out of Ceylon copra ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : It is a question of policy ; the concession is intended to encourage local oil-mill industry.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : I want to know the opinion of Government as to whether it is advisable to give such concession to the oil-mill owner to the prejudice of the local producer?

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MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : Government have given the concession because they wanted to encourage the local oil-mill industry.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : I do not think the member has understood my question. I will make it clear.

Government are giving certain concessions to the local mill-owners to encourage the local oil industry. The member says that one of the reasons for giving such concession is that the local mill-owners are permanet consumers of local copra. So, one of the objects of the concession is to give a stimulus to the mill-owner to consume local copra. Now, this concession in favour of oil extracted out of Ceylon copra gives a stimulus for the purchase of Ceylon copra. Does it not, therefore, work against the original object of Government?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : I have already stated that the Government want to encourage the oil industry in the State.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : Is it the policy of Government to encourage the oil industry to the prejudice of the copra producer here?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : It is not necessarily to the prejudice of the local copra producer; because, any way, the local mill-owners now purchase only Ceylon copra.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : Does the member make the definite statement now, on behalf of Government, that, by giving this concession to local oil industry, the local copra producer does not suffer in any way?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : Yes; that is the opinion of Government.

MR. POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANIKKAR (*Shertala II*) : May I know which is higher, the import duty on Ceylon copra or the export duty on local copra?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : There is no export duty on local copra. The import duty on Ceylon copra is twelve rupees per candy.

MR. POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANIKKAR (*Shertala II*) : I meant the export duty on oil extracted from local copra.

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : That is Rs. 2-13 as.

MR. POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANIKKAR (*Shertala II*) : May I take it that there is no export duty on Travancore copra?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : There is no export duty on Ceylon copra coming into Travancore and re-exported.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : What is the export duty on.....

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) Two members are speaking at the same time, Sir.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I did not hear the answer, Sir; I just wanted the member to repeat it.

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): No duty is charged on Ceylon copra coming into Travancore and re-exported.

MR. POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANIKKAR (*Shertala II*): What is the export duty on copra?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Rs. 4-12 as 10 ps.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): May I request the member to reconcile his statement that Ceylon copra is cheaper than Travancore copra with his further statement that Travancore copra does not suffer by the present concession given to oil extracted from Ceylon copra? I believe I am clear.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Sambasiva Aiyar, as the members do not quite follow what is happening, I will call upon the Excise Commissioner to make a statement.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Cocoanut oil and oil-cake or *punnac* are subject to export duty under the Customs Regulation whether they have been crushed out of indigenous copra or copra imported from outside. There is no exception to that under the Customs Regulation. But at the request of the mill-owners, in 1089, a concesion had been granted in their favour for the free export of oil and *punnac* crushed out of imported copra. This concession was for a limited time. At the expiry of that time, nobody prayed for the extension of the concession and the concession was never afterwards granted. Early this year, that is the year 1108, or towards the close of the year 1107, representations were received both by the Government and by myself from the mill-owners in Travancore praying for the grant of the very same concession. The Government considered that question and a concession for the free export of oil and *punnac* crushed out of copra imported from Ceylon was granted as an experimental measure during the year 1108, the year which is going to expire in less than 4 or 5 days. Soon after the grant of this concession, the newspapers began to give expression to the feeling that the grant of this concession will tend to lower the price of cocoanut and copra in Travancore. That matter came up before the Legislative Council in a previous sitting, and the position of Government was explained by me.

So far as the concession is concerned, there is something to be said on both sides. It may be argued that, by the coming of copra from outside, the price of copra which we are exporting from Travancore on a large scale may fall. On the other hand, it may also be said that the price of copra and cocoanut oil which we get in Travancore depends upon the market price outside. We are selling our copra not in Travancore markets alone and the price of copra and oil depends upon the conditions of the markets outside. The markets for our cocoanut oil

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are almost wholly in British India and when the price of cocoanut and copra falls in the British Indian markets such as Bombay, Karachi, Calcutta and other places, the price in Travancore automatically falls. So we cannot, by any arrangement that we may make in the matter of export or import duty, keep up the price as we like. The Government of India impose a duty on copra imported from Ceylon. We are also bound to follow them in imposing the very same duty. If they raise the duty, we can also raise it; and if they reduce it, we cannot but do the same thing. That duty was Rs. 17-10-0 till the 16th of January 1933; and as explained by the Secretary to Government, it was reduced to Rs. 12, partly by the reduction of the rate of duty as the result of the Ottawa Agreement, and partly by the reduction of the tariff value of copra. Anyhow, the result is that from Rs. 17-10-0 the import duty has now come down to Rs. 12-0-0. So the Ceylon producer can now undersell the Indian producer to that extent more than he could do before the 16th of Jannary 1933.

As I said already, it is not possible for us to control the prices of copra and cocoanut oil. We send our oil, *punnac* and copra to outside markets which are freely open to copra from Ceylon. Take, for instance, our nearest market of Cochin. Ceylon copra can freely come to Cochin and we cannot in any way prevent or control it. The price of oil and copra there would regulate the price here. The export duty on Travancore copra is Rs. 4 per candy. Including the transport charges, we may take it that the difference in prices between Alleppey and Cochin is Rs. 5. If the price at Cochin falls by the coming of Ceylon copra, the price of copra at Alleppey also falls. So, whether we grant this concession or not, the price of copra in Travancore will fall by the coming of Ceylon copra in the British markets. Hence, the grant of this concession by us cannot materially affect the fluctuations in prices.

This concession was granted by the Government as a measure of relief to the Travancore mill-owners. There are oil mills in Travancore, at Alleppey and other places. There are also oil mills in Cochin. The oil mill owner at Cochin can get Ceylon copra for the same price as the Alleppey mill-owner. But the Cochin mill-owner can crush it and export the oil and *punnac* without paying any export duty. On the other hand, the Travancore mill-owner has to pay an export duty, which would amount almost to Rs. 2—13 as. for the oil and *punnac* crushed out of one candy of copra. The result is that, if the Alleppey miller and the Cochin miller get Ceylon copra at the same price, the Travancore miller will be able to sell his oil and *punnac* only at a price of Rs. 2 13 as. higher than the price at which the Cochin miller can sell it. That would show how difficult the situation will be for the Travancore miller, because the oil and *punnac* must be sold by the two millers in the very same markets. It is therefore clear that the Alleppey miller will not be able to get Ceylon copra and crush it under such conditions. That is the argument which weighed with the Government in granting this concession as an experimental measure till the end of this year.

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No doubt, the matter is again before the Government and they are considering the question whether or not the concession may be extended for another year. Of course, the volume of opinion against it will also receive due consideration at the hands of the Government. The matter is still under consideration.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : How does the price of the oil extracted from Travancore copra compare with the price of the oil extracted in Travancore from Ceylon copra? I understand the member to say that in the case of oil the Travancore miller will be at a disadvantage if export duty is imposed upon the oil because it has mainly to be sold in British Indian markets and the Cochin miller will have an advantage. How do the prices compare in respect of the oil extracted from Travancore copra and that extracted from Ceylon copra in Travancore?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : They will not differ at all provided the quality is the same.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : That is why I wanted to know whether the cost to the Travancore miller of a candy of Ceylon copra before it is put into the mill is the same or less than the price of the Travancore copra of the same quality including the import duty.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : The cost in Travancore will depend upon the market in Cochin and other places.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : How does it generally compare?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) Generally it must be the same.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : So, if inclusive of the import duty the cost of Ceylon copra in Travancore in the miller's hands is the same practically as that of the Travancore copra, is it not a distinct disadvantage to the Travancore copra to impose a duty on the oil that is extracted from Travancore copra and not on the oil extracted from Ceylon copra in Travancore?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : That is another point which has also been considered by me and I shall explain it now. The question raised by Mr. Thanu Pillai is a very pertinent one. If the Alleppey miller purchases Ceylon copra and Travancore copra for the very same price, he can export, with this concession, the oil extracted from Ceylon copra without the payment of any export duty. On the other hand, he will have to pay an export duty of Rs. 2-13 as. on the oil and *punnac* crushed out of one candy of Travancore copra. The result is that Travancore miller under certain circumstances may be impelled to pay a slightly higher price for the Ceylon copra than for the Travancore copra.

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MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*): Or lower price for the local copra.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Will it not be that the miller would prefer Ceylon copra to Travancore copra and that he would prefer Travancore copra only if he is not able to get Ceylon copra?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The miller may be impelled to pay a slightly higher price for the Ceylon copra. That aspect of the question has been considered by me and explained in the letter which I have lately addressed to the Government. One aspect of the question is that the Travancore miller may prefer, as Mr. Thanu Pillai said, Ceylon copra, or, as I put it, he may be prepared to pay a slightly higher price for the Ceylon copra as there is a clear margin of Rs. 2 as. 13 as extra profit. As against that, there is another argument. The price in Travancore is regulated by the market price in Cochin. The Cochin miller will be prepared to pay the same price for Travancore copra and Ceylon copra, because in both cases he has no export duty to pay and he gets the same price for the products of both. So, the Cochin miller will certainly prefer Travancore copra to Ceylon copra if it is superior.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): Is there any export duty on copra itself?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I shall answer questions after finishing my statement. On the other hand, if they are of the same quality he may get whatever comes in his way. But so far as the Travancore miller is concerned, on account of this distinction, the Travancore miller may be prepared to pay a slightly higher price for the Ceylon copra. It is not easy to foresee how these forces will act and react upon one another. In any case, the prices should ultimately find their own level.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Was there any representation as to the Travancore millers not having a sufficient supply of Travancore copra?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): There is that complaint also. The members will remember the statement made before the House the other day by Mr. Padmanabha Menon, Electrical Engineer. He said that at one time he apprehended a fall in his receipts on account of oil mills not requiring power for want of sufficient raw materials and that, by the import of Ceylon copra, he hoped the millers would be working full time, consuming power and giving him increased revenue. That would support the cry of the mill-owners that they do not get enough of raw materials for their mills.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know from the member whether a large quantity is exported as copra?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): That is because as copra it can get a much higher price in outside markets than any that the mill-owners can afford to pay.

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MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*) : The member says that the Cochin miller will make no distinction between Travancore copra and Ceylon copra. I want to know whether there is an export duty on Travancore copra.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : There is export duty. The Cochin price is the Travancore price *plus* export duty.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : When the demand increases and the supply decreases, would it not enhance the value of the article ?

PRESIDENT : That is a general question. I think we have discussed this sufficiently, Mr. Nair.

Floods in the Periyar River.

77. ***MR. K. MAHOMED** (*Alwaye*) : Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the heavy losses sustained by the people owing to the floods in the Periyar river ?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*) ; Yes.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*) : Is the member aware of the fact that the high floods in the Periyar river are due to the sudden letting out of water from the Periyar Lake ?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*) : Yes, partly.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*) : Does the member know that the floods in recent years do not subside soon ?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*) : Yes.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*) : Does the member know that, owing to recent floods, the Periyar regions are still under water ?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*) : I am not aware.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*) : May I know from the member whether the Government have extended any help to relieve the distress caused by the recent floods ?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*) : I do not know.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*) : May I know from the member whether the Government have extended any help to relieve the distress of the poor ?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*) : I am not aware.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*) : Is the member aware of the fact that about 95 per cent. of the area in the Kunnatnad and Parur taluks is subject to floods ?

PRESIDENT : The member is giving information. You must ask for information, Mr. Mahomed.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*) : May I know from the member whether any reports have been submitted by the Tahsildars of Parur and Kunnatnad ?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*) : I have received none.

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